United Nations A/60/L.49

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 March 2006

Original: English

Sixtieth session
Agenda item 120
Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Costa Rica, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Singapore and Switzerland: draft resolution

Improving the working methods of the Security Council

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that the States Members of the United Nations have conferred on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, acting on their behalf, as provided for by the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the provisions relating to the powers and functions of the General Assembly in matters pertaining to the maintenance of international peace and security, in particular Article 11, Article 12, paragraph 1, Article 15, paragraph 1 and Article 24, paragraph 3, of the Charter,

Recalling its authority under Article 10 of the Charter to discuss any questions or any matters within the scope of the Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations and to make recommendations to the Members of the United Nations and to the Security Council thereon,

Stressing the special responsibility of the permanent members of the Security Council to uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter and to give their full support to the actions of the Organization aimed at maintaining international peace and security,

Noting with appreciation the work carried out by the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council,

Acknowledging the significant steps taken by the Security Council to enhance inclusiveness and the representation of the general membership,

Emphasizing the need for further measures to ensure the accountability, transparency, inclusiveness and representativeness of the work of the Security Council, with a view to further enhancing its legitimacy and effectiveness,

06-27539 (E) 200306

Reaffirming its support for early reform of the Security Council as an essential element of the overall effort to reform the United Nations, as stated in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document,[1]

Acknowledging that efforts to improve the working methods of the Security Council promote a comprehensive reform of the Security Council, including the increase in its membership,

1. *Invites* the Security Council to consider the measures contained in the annex to the present resolution in order to further enhance the accountability, transparency and inclusiveness of its work, with a view to strengthening its legitimacy and effectiveness;

2. *Further invites* the Security Council to report to the General Assembly, by the end of its sixtieth session, on action it has taken pursuant to its consideration of the present resolution.

[1] See resolution 60/1.

Annex

Measures on working methods suggested for consideration by the Security Council

Relationship with the General Assembly and other principal organs

1. The members of the Security Council should engage in an informal, interactive discussion on the annual report of the Council when it is considered by the General Assembly.

2. The Security Council should submit, in accordance with Article 24, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, special subject-oriented reports to the General Assembly for its consideration on issues of current international concern, including reports on topics such as termination of peacekeeping operations, imposition of sanctions and other enforcement measures, as well as other matters of relevance to the membership as a whole.

3. More substantive exchanges of views among the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should be held on a frequent basis and as a standard operating procedure. The procedures governing this interaction should be disseminated to the larger membership.

4. Regular and timely consultations between members and non-members of the Security Council should be established as part of the standard operating procedures of the Council.

5. The Security Council's tentative forecast of its programme of work for the coming month should be made available to Member States as soon as it is available to members of the Council. The incoming President of the Security Council should hold a briefing on the monthly forecast open to the larger membership of the United Nations.

6. Where decisions of the Security Council require implementation by all Member States, the Council should seek the views of the Member States and ensure that their ability to implement decisions is taken into account in the decision-making process.

Implementation of decisions

7. The Security Council should explore ways to assess the extent to which its decisions have been implemented. To this end, the Council should establish lessons learned groups to carry out the following tasks:

(a) Assessing whether Security Council decisions have been implemented;

(b) Analysing obstacles to implementation and reasons for non-implementation;

(c) Suggesting mechanisms or measures on the basis of best practices aimed at enhancing implementation.

Subsidiary bodies

8. The subsidiary bodies of the Security Council should include in their work, on a case-by-case basis, non-members with strong interest and relevant expertise.

Furthermore, Member States particularly affected by sanctions should, at their request, be given the possibility of participating in the meetings of the relevant sanctions committee.

9. The President of the Security Council and the Chairpersons of its subsidiary bodies should offer informal opportunities for Member States to provide substantive input to their work.

10. The Security Council should take steps to improve the quality and frequency of formal and informal reports on the work of all its subsidiary bodies. The Council should in particular explore ways to increase the transparency of the work of its sanctions committees, inter alia by announcing the meetings and agenda in the *Journal of the United Nations*, giving substantive briefings to non-members of the Council after the meeting, and making summary records more widely and promptly available.

11. The Security Council should give States confronted with special economic problems arising from preventive or enforcement measures imposed by the Council the opportunity to consult with the relevant sanctions committee on a timely, efficient and substantive basis, in accordance with Article 50 of the Charter.

12. Where sanctions involve lists of individuals or entities, sanctions committees should establish procedures, reflecting standards of due process, to review the cases of those claiming to have been incorrectly placed or retained on such lists.

Use of the veto

13. A permanent member of the Security Council using its veto should explain the reason for doing so at the time the relevant draft resolution is rejected in the Council and a copy of the explanation should be circulated as a Security Council document to all Members of the Organization.

14. No permanent member should cast a non-concurring vote in the sense of Article 27, paragraph 3, of the Charter in the event of genocide, crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian law.

Operations mandated or carried out by the Security Council

15. The Security Council should ensure that all Member States are fully and promptly informed of all developments regarding its missions, including their budgetary aspects.

16. The Security Council should enhance consultations with troop-contributing countries and other States that are especially engaged in United Nations field operations, in particular when they involve risks for the personnel deployed.

Relationship with regional arrangements and agencies

17. The Security Council, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter, should enhance its cooperation and consultations on matters affecting the maintenance of international peace and security with the relevant regional arrangements and agencies, as appropriate.

Integration of new Members of the Security Council

18. The Security Council Affairs Division of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat should be assigned the task of identifying best practices employed by members of the Security Council to consult with non-members with a view to incorporating those practices into the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council and into briefings given to candidates for election to the Council as well as to newly elected members of the Council.

19. In order to facilitate the integration of newly elected members of the Security Council, the Secretariat should prepare and disseminate a detailed briefing packet on the procedures, practices and work of the Council.